

devour both the cypsels leaving behind the terminal spines intact. Perhaps to avoid the terminal spines, 'basal eating' is preferred by this rodent.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that *V. oleracea* and *M. hurrianae* have characteristic patterns of gnawing syncarps of *X. indicum* and both avoid the terminal larger spines. By seeing a gnawed syncarp of *X. indicum* one could get a clue whether it is eaten by *V. oleracea* or *M. hurrianae*. It is also worthy to record that in times of scarcity, seeds of weeds like *X. indicum* are used by

rodents. Thus, they help in weed control also.

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October 19, 1994 SATISH KUMAR SHARMA
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8. INTERACTION BETWEEN BLACKBUCK ANTELOPE *CERVICAPRA* (LINN.) AND INDIAN FOX *VULPUS BENGALENSIS* (SHAW)

On 8th February 1991, at dusk Mr. Rajpal Singh and I were sitting near artificial water hole at the Tal Chhapar Blackbuck Sanctuary in Rajasthan, watching a mixed herd of blackbuck grazing about 200 m away. Separated from the main herd, and about a 100 m from us was a party of four bucks grazing. These four were gradually moving towards us, spaced about 3 to 5 m from each other.

When it was about to get dark we saw an Indian fox midway between the mixed herd and the buck party, trotting through the grass towards us. As it passed close to the bucks, the buck nearest to it

rushed towards the fox with lowered head. The fox changed its course to avoid the blackbuck and came again towards the water. When it again passed near the bucks, one of the bucks chased the fox for a long distance till it disappeared in the grass. During these interactions no alarm was shown by the herd but the other three members of the buck party assumed an alert posture with neck held vertically.

November 8, 1994 ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA
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9. PROBABLE OCCURRENCE OF WHITEFRONTED GOOSE *ANSER ALBIFRONS* (SCOPOLI) IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary (c. 15° 52', 78° 18' E), Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh harbours a few hundred Barheaded geese *Anser indicus* every winter. Whenever I came across a flock during my earlier stay in the Sanctuary between 1985 and 1988

I kept a watch for the Greylag geese, *Anser anser* which has not been recorded from here. However, during my present study period under the Grassland Ecology Project, on 31 October 1992 I saw a Whitefronted goose *Anser albifrons* with a flock of 17

Barheaded geese. I could clearly see the white patch on the forehead from the base of the bill. I did not notice or really look out for the presence of the yellow eye-ring present in the similar Lesser whitefronted goose *Anser erythropus*, but judging by its size, (threefourths of the Barheaded goose), it should be the Whitefronted goose and not the smaller Lesser whitefronted. There has been no record of both these geese from Andhra Pradesh, the southernmost record for the Whitefronted goose being Orissa and Maharashtra and for the Lesser whitefronted goose

only Pune in Maharashtra (Ali and Ripley 1983, HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Compact Edition, Oxford University Press, Bombay).

June 11, 1993

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10. HARE IN THE DIET OF WHITE-EYED BUZZARD EAGLE *BUTASTUR TEESA* (FRANKLIN)

On 23rd May 1992 while walking through the grassland in Sathiana area of the Dudwa National Park, (28° 18' & 28° 42' N and 80° 28' & 80° 27' E) Lakhimpur Kheri, I observed a White-eyed buzzard eagle *Butastur teesa* swooping over some animal in the grass. Because of the tall grasses the animal was not identifiable. On closer approach I saw it feeding on a hare. As I moved closer the bird flew leaving a freshly killed hare on which it had been feeding. The hare was freshly killed as evident from the oozing blood, warm body and the small amount consumed. The bird had fed on the head, including the ears.

Two species of hare occur in Dudwa National Park, the highly endangered hispid hare *Caprolagus hispidus* and the sympatric rufous-tailed hare *Lepus*

nigricollis. The killed hare was identified as rufous-tailed hare. Rats, mice, lizards, snakes, frogs, crabs, locust and grasshoppers and often larger insects have been reported in the diet of White-eyed buzzard eagle (Ali and Ripley 1983, HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN) but there is no report of any hare species in its diet.

July 31, 1993

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11. UNUSUAL NESTING SEASON OF BRONZEWINGED JACANA *METOPIDIUS INDICUS* (LATHAM)

The breeding of Bronzewinged jacana *Metopidius indicus* (Latham) coincides with the arrival of south-west monsoon. The period given by Ali and Ripley (1983, HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN) and Roberts (1991, BIRDS OF PAKISTAN, 1) is June to September. This is the usual time when vegetation filled waterholes are a plenty, which form the nesting site for Bronzewinged jacana. In the altered city environs such opportunities are available outside the usual nesting season. The

vegetation filled shallow tanks are either man made or caused by the seepage of irrigation reservoirs and canals. This availability of nesting site, food, high humidity due to unusual precipitation in the month of March, sparked off the breeding activity of Bronzewinged jacana in the centre of Kota city (75° 52' E, 25° 10' N) in Rajasthan, India. In a small pool close to Chhatravilas tank which acts as an irrigation reservoir, mating was seen on 16th March 1993 in the morning hours. The pool is choked with *Trapa*